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## **A METHOD FOR ESTIMATING DAYTIME POPULATION BY SMALL AREA GEOGRAPHY**

**Abstract:** The distribution of resident population in the San Diego region is well documented. However, most people spend a great deal of their time other than where they live. Twice each day a massive shift in the population distribution takes place, resulting in crowded activity centers and nearly deserted residential neighborhoods. Daytime population distribution is important to planners and public officials as it impacts a wide range of issues from water demand and sewage disposal to the routing of hazardous materials. Using data from surveys and computer models, the San Diego Association of Governments has developed a method for estimating both current and future daytime population by small geographic units.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The distribution of U.S. resident population in regions is well documented. A variety of sources, from the Federal Census to local telephone books indicate where people live. However, in a mobile society of bedroom communities and urban employment centers, where we live and where we actually are during the day are often quite different. Twice each weekday, a major shift in the distribution of population takes place. This is evidenced by peak hour traffic jams, crowded shopping center parking lots, and nearly deserted residential neighborhoods.

The distribution of daytime population is critical to both planners and public officials because it impacts such a wide range of issues. For example, sewage disposal requirements and the demand for water are radically affected by the shift. Per-capita crime statistics are also affected by the daytime population distribution. Crime rates for a particular geographic area are often expressed as a ratio of incidents to population. The population, however, refers to residents, not the number of people actually